

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

4 August 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: National Foreign Intelligence Board

FROM : George Bush

SUBJECT : Estimates Advisory Panel

1. I appreciate the comments of NFIB members concerning the scope and functions of the Estimates Advisory Panel. We will shortly be making arrangements for setting up the Panel, and I will be selecting those to invite. In the process, the views submitted by NFIB will be kept in mind.

2. Obviously, there are a number of questions to be worked out as the Panel gets into business, and no doubt we will be evolving precise procedures as we gain experience with it. I would like at the outset, however, to register my views on several matters raised by members of NFIB.

3. There is some concern that the Panel might detract from the role of NFIB in the review of national intelligence estimates. I can assure members that this will not be the case. The Panel is being created as advisory to me, to make sure that draft estimates receive the benefit of fresh perspectives while they are in preparation, before they are reviewed by the NFIB representatives and before they come to the NFIB. The Board's role as the body of final review will remain unchanged, as will the role of the NFIB representatives. To address a related concern, arrangements can and will be made for sharing with others in the Community the views of Panel members on any particular estimate. We will also make suitable arrangements to assure that Panel members are exposed to the full range of evidence bearing on any estimate they are asked to address.

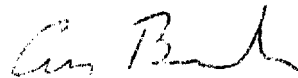
4. With respect to questions about the composition of the Panel, several Board members have emphasized the need for a broad spectrum among its members, and I fully agree. Specifically, we plan to tap academic resources, but it will certainly not be confined to academicians. I anticipate that governmental, business, and think-tank experience will be well represented. I contemplate that the great majority of its members would be from outside the government, but I would not want to make this a hard and fast rule.

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NFIB-D-14.2/4
4 August 1976

5. My intent is to keep the role and makeup of the Panel flexible enough to enable it to be of maximum helpfulness in the light of experience. For example, its principal function will be advisory on the major national estimates, but its members may also prove able to contribute suggestions on future projects or lines of analysis which the Community should undertake.

6. I will keep the Board's suggestions in mind and its members informed as we set about establishing the Panel in the coming weeks.

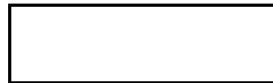

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MEMORANDUM FOR: All NIOs

Attached is the initial list of some 160 nominees to the Estimates Advisory Panel, plus a list of 18 additional names that reached us too late to get included on the master list. Would you please select from these lists the names of the three nominees you would most like to serve on the Panel and the three you would pick as their backups. Would you please look also at the lists with a view to expanding the information we have on the nominees and to eliminating those that you believe definitely should not serve. Please let's keep this list within the NI Staff for now.



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Attachment

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Please Note: The names with asterisks are those nominated by the NIOs.

Distribution: All Addressees

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Next 43 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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